

Top Secret

YUGOSLAVIA: Response to Riots in Kosovo

The leadership in Belgrade continues to blame local leaders and foreign powers for the unrest in Kosovo Province but has yet to offer any solutions for the problems there.

In his report to the Yugoslav Central Committee yesterday, Party Presidium President Mojsov admitted that poor economic conditions and high unemployment in Kosovo made the province particularly vulnerable to subversive activity. He also noted shortcomings in the provincial leadership. The party leader in Kosovo resigned on Tuesday, and more personnel changes are likely.

The leadership may be divided over the politically thorny issue of financial support for Kosovo. The recent unrest probably has caused leaders in the wealthier republics to question anew the efficacy of a system whereby they provide huge subsidies to Kosovo with no say in how the money is spent.

Mojsov identified the "foreign agents' center" responsible for the riots as the "Albanian Communist Marxist-Leninist Party in Yugoslavia" and announced that the leaders and organizers would soon go on trial.

The Yugoslavs' public accusations of Albanian involvement--both direct and implicit--will seriously strain relations between Belgrade and Tirane.

Meanwhile, the additional military units sent to Kosovo maintain guard over important installations.